

ART. VIII.—*Recent Roman Discoveries, 1889.*

BY THE PRESIDENT.

Communicated at Penrith, July 4th, 1889.

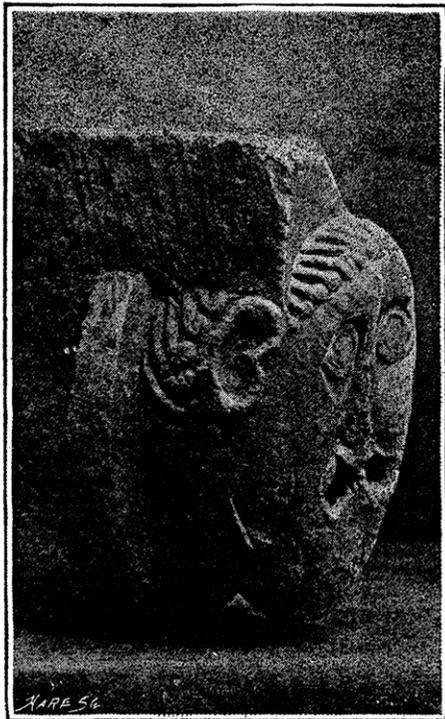
I AGAIN regret that I have no new Roman inscriptions to bring under your notice: the objects I have to bring have already been brought by me under the notice of the Society of Antiquaries of London in performance of my duty as one of their officials.

I.

I have the honour to exhibit and present photographs of a corbel stone, on which is carved a nondescript face issuing out of a circular back plate. The dimensions of the stone are:—On the flat table on the top, 18 by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the depth is 13 inches on one side, by somewhat less on the other, the under surface not being dressed square, like the table at the top. The distance of the back of the back plate from the end of the stone is $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the length which would be built into the wall in which the stone was used, leaving $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches projecting, or, allowing for the projection of the face beyond the back plate, about 7 inches projecting. The sinister side of the back plate has been worn away or otherwise destroyed. The diameter of the back plate has been about 9 inches. This corbel stone was found in excavations for buildings immediately contiguous to the site of the new markets at Carlisle, in made soil full of fragments of Roman pottery, and at a depth of 9 feet. Among the fragments was a very charming little Roman lamp, presently to be mentioned. The site of these new markets and the vicinity have for long been productive of Roman relics, and several are enumerated in the Transactions of this Society, and elsewhere.* I mention these facts because a difference of opinion exists as to whether this figure is Roman or not, and the circumstances surrounding the find may, therefore, have to be taken into account. One eminent authority on Roman matters writes to me:—

* Jefferson's *History and Antiquities of Carlisle*, p. 326; *Proc. S.A.* 2d S. vol. xii., pp. 111-113, 168, 423-425. *Transactions this Society*, vol. x., pp. 275-277.

Of



CORBEL STONE FOUND NEAR THE NEW MARKETS, CARLISLE.

Of course the abortion is early mediæval; an example of the low, inartistic mind of the time, though symbolists may imagine it a type of something.

But an eminent authority on mediæval matters writes to me:—

I should say the corbel is Roman. I never saw a mediæval one with the circular back plate, and I think it is altogether too inartistic for early mediæval work, and decorated and perpendicular work would certainly have something of the decorated or perpendicular character which would have marked it. It is as unlikely to be mediæval as the stone from Chester with the two figures about which Thompson Watkin made such a strange blunder. I do not think the hair treatment alone is sufficient to prove one way or the other. It is the common rude way of showing it at all times. I should call the thing Roman, less from the presence of nothing distinctly cultivated Roman about it, than from the absence of anything mediæval.

This object has evidently been meant to be viewed from below and from a distance, and the suggestion has been made that it is intended to represent a negro, and that the two holes are his nostrils. I rather incline to think that it represents an actor wearing a comic mask.

II.

I have also the honour of exhibiting the lamp I have mentioned, on which is the maker's stamp of

IECIDI.

Mr. C. Roach Smith informs me he has met with the following potters' marks:—

IECIDE, IECIDI, IEGIDI and L.IEGIDI;

all probably one and the same.

